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One casualty of the Festival may be Cuban-Argentine relations. Castro, in addressing the closing session of the Festival, again included Argentina in the list of Latin American countries he believed merited opprobrium for continued abuses of human rights. Castro's specificity was not accidental. He has long been frustrated by having to deal with a government he believes is responsible for the disappearance of two Cuban diplomats in Buenos Aires in 1976.

Castro apparently believes that relations with Argentina will not improve. He reportedly told leaders of the Latin American delegations at the Festival that while Havana would take no action to break with Buenos Aires, he would not care if the Argentine Government took such an initiative. Castro's reported statement is in line with Cuba's attitudes toward diplomatic splits; with the single exception of the break with Israel in 1973, the Cubans in recent years have preferred to provoke other countries into terminating relations with Havana.

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